



# Service-learning as a path to career development

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# Service-learning vs Volunteerism



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## Service-learning

Service-learning is a method of encouraging student learning and development through active participation in thoughtfully organized service that is conducted in, and meets the needs of, a community.

It involves an elementary school, secondary school, institution of higher education, or community service program, along with the community.

Service-learning has an academic context!

## Volunteerism

Volunteerism is the engagement of students in activities where the primary emphasis is on the service being provided and the primary intended beneficiary is clearly the service recipient.



# Service-learning

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- ❖ Service-learning is based on a reciprocal relationship.
- ❖ The objectives of the class are tied to the service-learning experience.
- ❖ Integrating the service being performed and classroom learning is a natural extension of the interdisciplinary nature of community service and operates under the same premise as other school-to-work components.

# Real World, Hands on Learning

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## Key Elements:

- ❖ Integrated Curriculum
- ❖ Time for Reflection
- ❖ Building Community Partnerships
- ❖ Diverse Activities

# Benefits

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- ❖ Active Learning
- ❖ Working with Diverse Populations
- ❖ Younger Participants
- ❖ School and Community Support
- ❖ Improved Citizenship and Self-Esteem
- ❖ Service learning helps students learn both academic and life skills

# Benefits

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- ❖ Positive effect on student personal development such as sense of personal efficacy, personal identity, spiritual growth and moral development
  - ❖ Positive effect on reducing stereotypes and facilitating cultural and racial understanding
  - ❖ Service-learning may subvert as well as support course goals of reducing stereotyped thinking and facilitating cultural and racial understanding.
  - ❖ Service-learning has a positive effect on sense of social responsibility and citizenship skills.
  - ❖ Service-learning has a positive effect on commitment to service



# Benefits for Career Development



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- ❖ Students and faculty report that service-learning has a positive impact on students' academic learning
  - ❖ Students and faculty report that service-learning improves students' ability to apply what they have learned in the "real world"
  - ❖ Service learning has an impact on critical thinking, problem analysis, cognitive development
  - ❖ Service learning contributes to career development
  - ❖ Service learning improves student satisfaction with college
  - ❖ Students involved in service-learning are more likely to graduate



# Effective Practice

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- ❖ Laying the foundation with your community partners
- ❖ Set clear expectations with students
- ❖ Don't expect everything to go right!
- ❖ Reflection (the key component)

[http://www.generationon.org/files/flatpage/files/checklist of reflection activities.pdf](http://www.generationon.org/files/flatpage/files/checklist%20of%20reflection%20activities.pdf)

- ❖ Journaling
- ❖ Poetry
- ❖ Songs
- ❖ Storytelling
- ❖ Art work
- ❖ Videos
- ❖ Photo's....



# Reflection

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- ❖ Without reflection, service-learning has little merit as an instructional tool.
- ❖ It is through the process of structuring and guiding a student's reflective process where teachers can help students extract lessons from their community experiences.
- ❖ Reflection is generally considered to be the most critical step in linking the service & learning components of a service-learning course.

# Creating a Syllabus

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<http://compact.org/resource-type/syllabi/>

<http://www.highpoint.edu/servicelearning/sample-syllabi/>

<https://www.cpcc.edu/service-learning/faculty-staff/service-learning-syllabi>

Faculty Service-Learning Modules:

## **Awesome Resource**

<http://www.fresnostate.edu/academics/cesl/facultysl/index.html>

# Helpful Websites

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<http://mncampuscompact.org/cli/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/07/Reflection-Activities-for-All-Classrooms.pdf>

<http://compact.org/>

[https://www.uvm.edu/~dewey/reflection\\_manual/](https://www.uvm.edu/~dewey/reflection_manual/)

# Examples

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Project Ideas

Examples from UALR

To learn more:

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SL Academy: [edhart@ualr.edu](mailto:edhart@ualr.edu)

Phone: 501-569-8292